

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANAMA 02660 131259Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-12 /081 W
-----027395 131303Z /53

O P 131020Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5512
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY
USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL DERUSALEM PRIORITY
AMEMBQJSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 2660

BEIRUT/DAMASCUS FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, XF, BA
SUBJECT: AMIR ASKS FOR U.S. PRESSURE ON SAUDIS

REF: MANAMA 2658

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1. AMIR TOLD ME DEC 13 THAT SAUDIS FAILING BADLY IN THEIR
ROLE AS LEADING ARAB STATE. AMIR SAID ASHRAF MARWAN TOLD
HIM THAT SAUDIS HAD TOLD HIM THEY SUPPORTED SADAT'S MOVES
BUT WOULD KEEP LOW PROFILE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN INFLUENCE
WITH SYRIANS, PALESTINIANS AND OTHERS. ASAD, HOWEVER, TOLD
AMIR THAT SAUDIS TOLD HIM THAT SAG WAS AGAINST SADAT
INITIATIVE AND THEIR LOW PROFILE WAS MEANT TO REFLECT THIS

OPPOSITION. AMIR SAID HE FELT ASAD HAD COME AWAY FROM
YIYADH "CONFUSED" BY SAUDI TO-ING AND FRO-ING. AMIR SAID
HE FELT BOTH MARWAN AND ASAD WERE TELLING THE TRUTH AS
THEY SAW IT.

2. AMIR SAID SITUATION IN WHICH PRINCE FAHD SUPPORTS
SADAT AND SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER IS STRONGLY OPPOSED IS
CRIPPLING ABILITY OF SAUDIS TO LEAD ITS SMALLER NEIGHBORS
AND IF CONTINUED COULD DO SEVERE DAMAGE TO SAUDI LEADERSHIP
ROLE IN FUTURE. AMIR ASKED ME TO MAKE POINT OF REPORTING
TO SECRETARY HIS VIEW THAT USG SHOULD PRESS SAUDIS HARD TO
COME OUT STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF SADAT, AND TO STAND FIRMLY
WITH HIM IN THESE DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS TIMES. "THIS IS
NO TIME FOR CHEAP POLITICS; FRIENDS MUST STAND OPENLY
WITH FRIENDS."

3. AMIR SAID HIS PREVIOUS OPTIMISM OVER SADAT'S MOVE
(MANAMA 2538) HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY ERODED BY SUBSEQUENT EVENTS.
HE IS CERTAIN NOW, AND MARWAN OF COURSE CONFIRMED IT TO HIM,
THAT SADAT ACTED ALONE, WITH NO PRIOR ASSURANCE FROM USG
OR ISRAEL THAT ANYTHING USEFUL IN WAY OF ISRAELI CONCESSIONS
WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. SITUATION, THEREFORE, IS VERY
DANGEROUS ONE. AMIR SAID HE KNEW USG UNDERSTOOD THAT SADAT
MOVE MUST SUCCEED OR AREA WILL SLIP TOWARD REVOLUTION AND
WAR. HE SAID HE HAS BEEN DISAPPOINTED SO FAR WITH ISRAELI
RESPONSES TO SADAT; "EVEN THEIR DOVES ARE PROPOSING PLANS
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WHICH ARABS COULD NOT ACCEPT."

4. I ASSURED AMIR THAT USG WAS GIVING EVERY POSSIBLE
SUPPORT TO SADAT AND REVIEWED FOR HIM MOST RECENT STATEMENTS
BY PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY. AMIR SAID HE HAD AT FIRST
BEEN HEARTENED BY KING HUSSEIN'S REMARKS DEC 12 BUT THAT
KING'S STATEMENT DEC 13 (WHICH WE HAVE NOT SEEN) RULING OUT
ANY JORDANIAN ATTENDANCE AT CAIRO MEETING INDICATED TO HIM
THAT SECRETARY'S VISIT TO ISREAL HAD PRODUCED RESULTS SO
MEAGER THAT KING NOW FEARS TO BECOME INVOLVED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: MPOL, XF, BA, SA, US
To: BEIRUT DAMASCUS
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vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7bacc305-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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